

Appendix G



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Darby Creek

Wild and Scenic Rivers Review

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G.1 Introduction

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, (Public Law 90-543 as amended: 16 U.S.C. 1271-1287) (Act) establishes a method for evaluating and providing Federal protection for certain free-flowing rivers, preserving them and their immediate environments for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. One outcome of that Act is a national system of designated wild, scenic, or recreational rivers included in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Section 5(d) (1) of the Act states in part: In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all Federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas, and all river basin and project plan reports submitted to the Congress shall consider and discuss any such potential.

G.2 Wild and Scenic River Review

The purpose of this wild and scenic river review is to inventory and study the rivers, river segments and their immediate environments within the refuge planning area to determine if they merit inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

As part of the Section 5(d) (1) review process, we are required to include all river segments that are within the planning area and listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory is maintained by the National Park Service and lists more than 3,400 free-flowing river segments in the United States that are believed to possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable” natural or cultural values judged to be of more than local or regional significance.

G.3 Service Summary and Conclusion of Wild and Scenic River Review

Darby Creek is the only major waterway that flows through refuge lands. We reviewed the Nationwide Rivers Inventory and found no record of Darby Creek within its listing. As a result, the portion of Darby Creek within John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum is not considered by the Nationwide Rivers Inventory as having outstanding remarkable values or potential for special designation. Despite its habitat and recreation values to the refuge, Darby Creek is not eligible for a wild and scenic designation.